GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:535
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
ERADICATION OF AIDS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent survey conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has revealed that India has an estimated 3.86 million affected people with HIV/AIDS;

(b) whether the said survey has shown a high prevalence of over one per cent in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland;

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments which have high prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases to go in for a joint war against the deadly disease by launching an intensified drive involving religious groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 535 FOR 29.8.2001

(a) to (d): The National AIDS Control Organisation is conducting annual rounds of HIV sentinel surveillance in designated sentinel sites, with the objective to monitor the progress of HIV epidemic in the country. The last round of HIV sentinel surveillance was conducted during August-October 2000 in 232 sentinel sites. Based on the results of this round and pre- determined assumptions, an estimate of 3.86 million HIV infections as in year 2000 was worked out.

The HIV sentinel surveillance data has shown a HIV prevalence of over 1% among antenatal women in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland which is used as a proxy for the HIV prevalence in thegeneral population.

The Hon`ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee took the initiative of convening a meeting on May 22, 2001 of Chief Ministers of these six states which have a HIV/AIDS prevalence of 1% in the general population. In his address to the Chief Ministers, the Prime Minister said that the AIDS epidemic presents a grave challenge and could seriously affect the present as well as the future development of the states. He called upon the Chief Ministers to intensify prevention activities and focus on awareness of young people who are the most vulnerable. These should include programes for school children, street children and other young people to help them adopt a responsible lifestyle. He further stated that religious establishments who can have a strong positive influence over large sections of the society should be actively involved. He reassured the Chief Ministers that the Centre would continue to partner with them in every possible way in the joint war against HIV/AIDS.